

**California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board**  
**Open Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2015, Board Meeting**

The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board) convened its meeting in open session at the call of Marybel Batjer, Secretary, California Government Operations Agency, at 400 R Street, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at 10:04 a.m. Also present were Board member Richard Chivaro, Deputy State Controller and Chief Counsel, acting for and in the absence of Betty T. Yee, Controller, and Board member Michael Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney.

Chief Counsel Wayne Strumpfer was in attendance. Tisha Heard, Board Liaison, recorded the meeting.

The Board meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 1. Approval of Minutes of the January 15, 2015, Board Meeting**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 15, 2015, Board Meeting.

**Item 2. Public Comment**

None.

**Item 3. Executive Officer Statement**

Chairperson Batjer announced that Executive Officer Nauman was not in attendance due to an appointment; consequently, the Executive Officer Statement was not given.

**Item 4. Contract Report**

Contractor: Titan Outdoor, VCGC4192

Contract Amount: \$74,446.51

Contract Term: 12/01/14 – 02/15/15

As part of the CalVCP Strategic Communications Plan, the Office of Public Affairs entered into an agreement with Titan to provide a dynamic advertising campaign focused on mass transit vehicles and stations in the Los Angeles region including Long Beach and Burbank. Based on information provided by the three transportation agencies in Los Angeles County, ridership is nearly five million people per month. Impressions are estimated to be 28 million during the advertising period. Similar advertising campaigns in the Bay Area have produced great results leading to increased program awareness and application submittals.

Jon Myers, Deputy Executive Officer, Public Affairs and Outreach, explained that the advertising campaign for the Los Angeles region began on Monday, February 16. Mr. Myers showed slides of the images posted on the interior and exterior of buses in Los Angeles, including LA DASH, Long Beach Transit, and Burbank Metrolink.

Chairperson Batjer asked Mr. Myers whether data was tracked to determine the results of the outreach efforts for advertising on the transportation agencies in the greater Bay Area.

Mr. Myers stated that staff was in the process of compiling the data. He explained that because of the great exposure and positive feedback with the Bay Area transit outreach effort, the contractor kindly extended the time that the advertisements ran. As a result, it took longer for staff to acquire the data. He stated he would report the findings at a future Board meeting.

### Bill Review Service

Invitation for Bid No. VCGC4016

Amount: \$1,080,000.00

Contract Term: 7/1/15-6/30/18

The Board has utilized a bill review service vendor for over 20 years and will be procuring a new contract as of July 1, 2015. The vendor will provide a variety of services, including applying the Board-approved medical fee schedule for streamlined payment and cost containment.

Contractor: Capio Group, VCGC3014 (Amendment 2)

Contract Amount: \$857,000.00

Contract Term: 6/26/14-1/31/16

New Total Contract Amount: \$1,499,800.00

Earlier in 2014, the Board delayed the implementation of the final phase of changes for the CaRES Modernization Project based on the results of user acceptance testing. After analyzing these results, the Board has determined that the complexity of the improvements in this final phase requires additional time for adequate system and user testing and subsequent training of all headquarter and Joint Powers staff across the State. This refinement of the testing processes and training schedule is important to the successful completion and operation of the system.

Chairperson Batjer explained that she worked with Executive Officer Nauman, State CIO Carlos Ramos, and CalVCP staff and was satisfied with some of the changes that have been made.

The Board unanimously approved the contracts.

### **Item 5. Legislative Update**

Wayne Strumpfer, VCGCB Chief Counsel, explained that the Legislative Proposal was the culmination of last year's CalVCP Statute Modernization Project initiated to renew and update California's statutes and regulations regarding the State's compensation program. CalVCP staff met with stakeholders at several public forums in LA and headquarters. Staff took information from stakeholders at those meetings, worked with the Governor's Office and Government Operations Agency, and put together a Legislative Proposal that will be authored by Assemblymember Bonta.

Mr. Strumpfer thanked CalVCP staff for their input. He explained that in addition to a number of minor or technical changes, the Legislative Proposal makes the following changes to the California Victim Compensation Program eligibility and benefits:

- Adds online harassment as an eligible crime.
- Reduces verification requirements for reimbursement of increased residential security.
- Expands the reimbursement of crime-scene cleanup expenses to include vehicles.
- Prohibits the denial of an application based on sexual assault solely because a police report was delayed or not made by the victim.
- Prohibits the denial of an application based on domestic violence for lack of cooperation with law enforcement solely due to the victim's conduct at the scene of the crime.
- Prohibits the denial of an application due to participation in a misdemeanor crime.
- Allows compensation of victims who are non-violent, non-sex offender felons while on probation, parole, or equivalent supervision.
- Aligns mental health counseling reimbursement limits for all victims of statutory rape with those for other victims.
- Provides that the Board must only distribute funds collected for a restitution order that total less than \$25 when requested by the victim who is the recipient of the order.

Chairperson Batjer thanked Mr. Strumpfer and staff for the concise report. Chairperson Batjer asked Mr. Strumpfer whether the Legislative Proposal was posted on the VCGCB website.

Mr. Strumpfer stated the Legislative Proposal was not currently posted on the VCGCB website, but would be posted soon.

#### **Item 6. Government Claims Program Consent Agenda (Nos. 1-261)**

The Board unanimously approved numbers 1-261 on the consent agenda.

#### **Item 7. Applications for Discharge From Accountability for Collection**

There were no applications for discharge from accountability for collection.

#### **Victim Compensation Program**

The Board commenced the Victim Compensation Program portion of the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

#### **Request to Establish Violence Peer Counseling Rates and Service Limitation Guidelines**

Robin Foemmel Bie, CalVCP Resource Branch Manager, explained that on September 25, 2014, Governor Brown signed AB 1629 into law. The legislation amended Government Code section 13957.9 and authorized the California Victim Compensation Program to reimburse crime victims or derivative victims for outpatient violence peer counseling-related expenses. The provisions will expire on January 1, 2017, unless they are extended by future legislation.

CalVCP staff reached out to the sponsor of AB 1629, Youth Alive!, an organization based in Oakland, California, committed to ending youth violence through implementing a public health model of prevention and intervention. Ms. Foemmel Bie stated that Linnea Ashley, National Training & Advocacy Manager, Youth ALIVE!, was in attendance.

The Mental Health Section of the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board) requested the Board adopt guidelines, rates, and service limitations for violence peer counseling services. The guidelines include definitions associated with violence peer counselors, session limitations, training requirements, minimum qualifications to be certified as a violence peer counselor, and the level of supervision that is required for a violence peer counselor. Billing requirements and expectations are established in the guidelines. Violence peer counselors will be reimbursed at a rate of \$15/hour with a maximum session limit of 10 for each application. The new benefit would cost \$115,000 each fiscal year.

The Board unanimously adopted the guidelines, rates, and service limitations for violence peer counselors.

#### **Closed Session**

Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c)(3), the Board adjourned into Closed Session with the Board's Chief Counsel at 10:18 a.m. to deliberate on proposed decision numbers 1-71.

#### **Open Session**

The Board reconvened into Open Session pursuant to Government Code section 11126 (c)(3) at 10:25 a.m. The Board adopted the hearing officer's recommendations for proposed decision numbers 1-71.

#### **Adjournment**

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.